

North Minneapolis Greenway Frequently Asked Questions (Revised 2/26/14)

Project timeline and funding

Q: What work has already been completed on the North Minneapolis Greenway project?

A: The idea for this project came from residents who wanted to see a greenway in north Minneapolis. An all-volunteer group called Twin Cities Greenways partnered with Bike Walk Twin Cities (a program of Transit for Livable Communities) in 2011 to collect input from residents about the concept, and found that residents supported the idea. In fall 2012, the City gathered community input on greenway route and design options. Based on that input, the City developed a map showing a proposed route and designs, and in 2013, residents completed surveys to provide input on the map. Based on the input, the City made some small changes to the proposed greenway map.

Q: What is happening with the greenway project now?

A: The City, along with the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability and many other community partners, is conducting community engagement to gather input the proposed greenway route and designs. The City is also conducting a feasibility study of the greenway to explore constructions and maintenance costs, vehicle traffic impacts, parking, transit, small business impacts, environmental impacts (storm water, biodiversity) and construction impacts.

Q: I already completed a survey about the greenway. Should I complete another one?

A: Yes. The new survey will give people the opportunity to provide input on the changes made to the route map. It also asks new questions about safety and will help further inform the project plans. By completing a survey now, you will ensure that your opinions are included with the input received during this round of engagement.

Q: What will happen next with this project?

A: After this input is gathered, the City will develop a final report summarizing the results of the community engagement process that makes recommendations based on input gathered. If the community engagement shows that residents support a greenway, the City will seek additional funds to further develop plans and, eventually, to construct the greenway.

Q: When will the greenway be built?

A: We do not know at this time when the greenway would be built. The timeline will depend on community support for the greenway and on funding available for construction.

Q: Who is funding this planning work?

A: Funding for this project is provided in part by the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, as part of Blue Cross' long-term commitment to tackling the four leading root causes of heart preventable disease and cancer: tobacco use, obesity, lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating.

Q: Could the funding for this planning process be used for something else?

A: No. The funding that pays for this project must be used to develop plans for the greenway.

Funding for this project is provided in part by the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.



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Q: Who makes the final decisions on the greenway?

A: The Minneapolis City Council will make the final decisions on the greenway.

Q: You have developed plans for a specific route and designs. Are these plans final? Can changes still be made?

A: The City is in the initial planning stages for the north Minneapolis greenway. Plans are not final and are likely change based on community input and on further study and plan development by the City. This is an important time to give your input.

Greenway design

Q: Where will I park if my street becomes a full greenway?

A: Residents living on a full “linear park” greenway will still have access to their alleys and will be able to park in their driveways and garages. Small parking lots will also be developed at the ends of blocks to provide additional parking space for residents and visitors. The half-and-half greenway design with one-way traffic would maintain parking on one side of the street, and the bike boulevard would retain most of the existing parking on the street.

Q: Will emergency vehicles still be able to access homes on the greenway route?

A: Yes. Plans are being designed to accommodate emergency vehicles. Emergency responders will review greenway plans and ensure that their emergency vehicles are still able to access all homes along the route.

Q: Will the City demolish any homes as part of this project?

A: No, the City will not demolish homes as part of the greenway project. The current plans use the City's existing right-of-way.

Q: If a full “linear park” greenway is constructed, will the parallel streets become more congested?

A: The full “linear park” greenway type will only be used on streets with very little traffic. Parallel streets may see slightly more traffic, but traffic volumes on those streets should still remain very low.

Other questions

Q: What is a greenway?

A: Greenways are safe, accessible routes for bicyclists and pedestrians. They are designed to be user-friendly for people of all ages and abilities and are a free space for recreation, commuting, and physical activity.

Q: Are there other examples of greenways in Minneapolis? Where are they?

A: Yes. Examples for comparison include 37th Avenue North between Penn and Knox Avenues North, Milwaukee Avenue in the Seward neighborhood, and the Midtown Greenway in South Minneapolis.

Q: How will the greenway be maintained?

A: As greenway plans are further developed, the City will work with its partners to determine how it will be maintained. Other trails in the City are maintained by the City and by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, who plow the trails and mow the grass.

Q: Will I be assessed if this is built on my street?

A: Assessments are one tool that the City uses to fund its street projects. We do not know at this time whether property owners along the route will be assessed if the greenway is constructed. This will in part depend on community input and on funding options available for construction.

Q: I live on the greenway route. What will happen to my property value and taxes if the greenway is built?

A: We do not know what will happen to property values along the greenway route; however it is possible that property values will increase. Construction of the Midtown Greenway in south Minneapolis resulted in substantial investment and development along the route. If property values increase, then property taxes could increase. The City may seek market value exclusions for properties along the route to prevent tax increases for property owners for a set period of time; however, this is not guaranteed.

Q: Where can I find more information? Who can I contact if I have other questions?

A: The project website has additional information: www.minneapolismn.gov/health/living/northminneapolisgreenway. You can also contact Sarah Stewart, sarah.stewart@minneapolismn.gov, 612-673-3987, with questions.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Minneapolis Health Department at 612-673-2301 or email health@minneapolismn.gov. Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may use a relay service to call 311 agents at 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you have any questions regarding this material please call Minneapolis Health Department at 612-673-2301.

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